Component of Statistics Canada catalogue no. 85-002-X
Juristat

Juristat Article

Violent victimization of Aboriginal people in the Canadian provinces, 2009

by Samuel Perreault

Released: March 11, 2011

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March 2011

Catalogue no. 85-002-X

ISSN 1209-6393

Frequency: Irregular

Ottawa

Cette publication est également disponible en français.

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Symbols

. not available for any reference period
.. not available for a specific reference period
... not applicable
0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
^{p} preliminary
^{r} revised
x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
^{E} use with caution
F too unreliable to be published

Violent victimization of Aboriginal people in the Canadian provinces, 2009: Highlights

- In 2009, Aboriginal people were more likely than non-Aboriginal people to report being victimized. Overall, 37% of Aboriginal people self-reported being the victim of a crime compared to 26% of non-Aboriginal people.
- Sexual assaults accounted for more than one-third of violent incidents with an Aboriginal victim. Aboriginal people reported sexual assault incidents at a rate of 70 incidents per 1,000 people, compared to 23 per 1,000 non-Aboriginal people.
- Those aged 15 to 24 years were the victims in nearly half (47%) of incidents reported by Aboriginal people, whereas they represented 22% of the Aboriginal population aged 15 and over.
- Aboriginal women were almost three times more likely than non-Aboriginal women to report that they had been a victim of spousal violence in the past five years. Aboriginal victims of spousal violence were also more likely to report that they have feared for their life or that they had been injured as a result of the violence.
- Violent crimes with an Aboriginal victim were less likely than those with a non-Aboriginal victim to involve a weapon.
- Violent crimes involving an Aboriginal victim (67%) were more likely than incidents with a non-Aboriginal victim (52%) to be related to the alcohol or illegal drug use of the perpetrator.
- Among both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, about 1 in 3 violent incidents was reported to police. However, incidents of spousal violence involving an Aboriginal victim were more likely to be reported than those involving a non-Aboriginal victim.
- Similar to non-Aboriginal people, the vast majority of Aboriginal people said they were satisfied with their overall personal safety from crime.

Violent victimization of Aboriginal people in the Canadian provinces, 2009

by Samuel Perreault

A number of previous studies have indicated that Aboriginal people tend to be highly represented as victims (Brzozowski 2006) and perpetrators of crime (Charron 2010; Brzozowski 2006) as well as among incarcerated persons (Perreault 2009). These studies have been useful in developing policies and programs suited to the distinct social context in which Aboriginal people live. Yet, there continue to be challenges in obtaining comprehensive data on the involvement of Aboriginal people in the justice system (Perreault 2009; Brzozowski 2006).

The General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization is one available source of data that can be used to measure the nature and extent of Aboriginal victimization. This survey collects information from a representative sample of Canadians regarding their victimization experiences for eight types of crime: sexual assault, robbery, assault, break and enter, theft of motor vehicles or parts, theft of household property, vandalism and theft of personal property.

This *Juristat* article presents information from the GSS on criminal victimizations as reported by Aboriginal people living in the ten provinces during 2009,[1] with a particular focus on violent victimizations (see Text box 1 for complete definitions).[2] It analyses the characteristics associated with such incidents, including the socio-demographic risk factors, consequences of victimization, reasons for reporting (and not reporting) incidents to police, perceptions of personal safety and perceptions of the criminal justice system. In addition, information on Aboriginal victims and persons accused of homicide is presented.[3]

Text box 1
Definitions

In 2009, the GSS measured the nature and extent of victimization in Canada, including victimization of Aboriginal people, by looking at three types of violent crimes, four types of household crimes and theft of personal property. When an incident included more than one type of crime, it was classified according to the most serious offence (in the order shown below). For information on break and enter, motor vehicle theft, theft of household property and vandalism, see Perreault and Brennan 2010.

Violent Victimization	**Description**
Sexual assault	Forced sexual activity, an attempt at forced sexual activity, or unwanted sexual touching, grabbing, kissing, or fondling.
Robbery	Theft or attempted theft in which the perpetrator had a weapon or there was violence or the threat of violence against the victim.
Physical assault	An attack (victim hit, slapped, grabbed, knocked down, or beaten), a face-to-face threat of physical harm, or an incident with a weapon present.
Theft of personal property	Theft or attempted theft of personal property such as money, credit cards, clothing, jewellery, a purse or a wallet (unlike robbery, the perpetrator does not confront the victim).
Aboriginal identity	Refers to those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, that is, North American Indian, Métis or Inuit. Because of a relatively low number of respondents, distinction between Aboriginal groups is not possible when using GSS data.

Aboriginal victimization higher than non-Aboriginal victimization

In 2009, almost 322,000 Aboriginal people aged 15 years or older, or more than one-third (37%) of the Aboriginal population living in the provinces, reported having been a victim of at least one of the eight offences covered by the General Social Survey in the preceding 12 months. This compares to about one-quarter (26%) of non-Aboriginal people who reported having been victimized over the same period.

Among all incidents reported by Aboriginal people, theft of personal property was the most common, accounting for 26% of all incidents. Combined, break and enter, theft of motor vehicles or parts, theft of household property and vandalism accounted for another 33%. The remaining 41% of incidents involved violent incidents, namely, sexual assault, robbery and assault. Of those violent incidents, 15% were sexual or physical assaults committed by a spouse or common-law partner (current or former) in the 12 months preceding the survey. The remainder of the article focuses primarily on the nature of these violent incidents.

Non-spousal violence

For the purposes of this article, violent victimization is divided into two sections: non-spousal violence and spousal violence. Non-spousal violence includes sexual assaults, robberies and assaults committed by anyone but the victim's partner (e.g., friends, acquaintances, strangers, other family members) that occurred in the 12 months preceding the survey. Spousal violence, on the other hand, includes sexual assaults and assaults committed by a current or former spouse or common-law partner that occurred in the 5 years preceding the survey.

Although there is no legal distinction between non-spousal and spousal violence, risk factors and consequences for victims may differ depending on the perpetrator of the violence. Research shows that non-spousal violence is more often an isolated incident, whereas spousal violence tends to be part of a pattern of on-going abuse (INSPQ 2010; NCVC 2010; Frigon 1996; Walker 1984).

One in ten Aboriginal people report being violently victimized

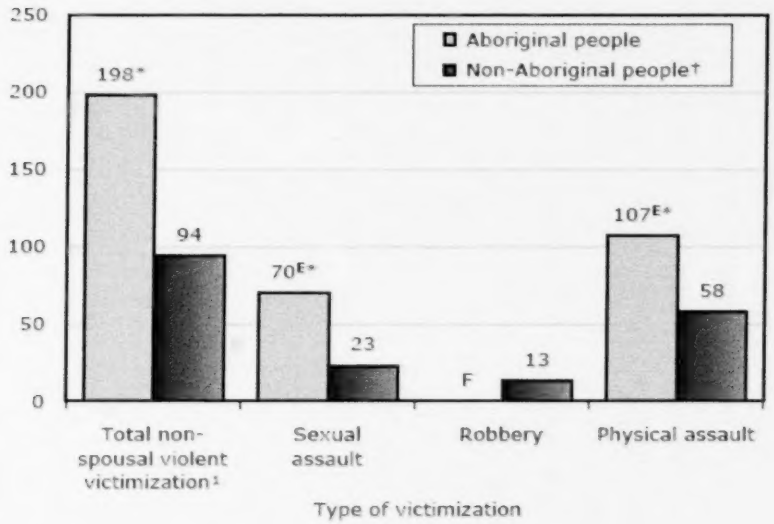
Aboriginal people are more likely than non-Aboriginal people to be the victim of non-spousal violence. In 2009, 12% of Aboriginal people reported being the victim of at least one non-spousal violent crime, more than double the proportion of non-Aboriginal people (5%). In total, Aboriginal people self-reported 173,600 non-spousal violent incidents representing a rate of 198 violent incidents for every 1,000 Aboriginal people. (Table 1 and Chart 1)

Aboriginal people are also more likely than non-Aboriginal people to report being victimized multiple times. In 2009, nearly one-quarter (23%) of victims had been a victim of more than one non-spousal violent incident, compared to 19% of non-Aboriginal victims. These Aboriginal victims of multiple non-spousal violent crimes accounted for 41% of the non-spousal violent incidents reported by Aboriginal people.

Of all non-spousal violent incidents reported by Aboriginal people, assaults were the most common, at 107[E] incidents per 1,000.[4] Assaults were also the most common type of victimization self-reported by non-Aboriginal victims (58 per 1,000). However, the gap between Aboriginal (70[E] incidents per 1,000) and non-Aboriginal victims (23 per 1,000) was proportionally greater for sexual assaults.

Chart 1
Self-reported non-spousal violent victimizations, Canada's ten provinces, 2009

rate per 1,000 population age 15 years and older



† reference category
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
F too unreliable to be published
1. Includes robbery and excludes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault. Includes incidents that occurred during the 12 months preceding the survey.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Text box 2
Homicide: Aboriginal people as homicide victims and accused persons

The Homicide Survey collects detailed information on all homicides that occur in Canada, including the Aboriginal identity of victims and accused persons. It is important to note, however, that information on Aboriginal identity is not reported to the Homicide Survey or is unknown for a sizeable proportion (approximately half) of all homicides. The following analysis focuses solely on the characteristics of homicides that occurred in the provinces and for which Aboriginal identity was known. From 2004 to 2009, police reported 330 homicides with an Aboriginal victim and 417 with an Aboriginal accused.

Most of these homicides involved the use of drugs or alcohol. About three quarters (73%) of victims and 91% of accused had used alcohol and/or drugs (or another intoxicant) at the time of the incident.

As with violent crimes in general, most of the Aboriginal accused were young males. Males accounted for 82% of Aboriginal accused with an average age of 24 years old.

Youth and young adults at highest risk of violent victimization

As noted by Perreault and Brennan (2010), many socio-demographic factors collected by the GSS were found to be associated with overall violent victimization, both for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. Some of these factors related to victim demographics such as sex, age or marital status; while others related to victim lifestyle characteristics such as their alcohol consumption, drug use or participation in evening activities.[5]

The GSS shows several of these risk factors were self-reported more frequently by Aboriginal people than by non-Aboriginal people (Table 2).[6] When all these known risk factors were taken into account (See models 1 and 2), the risk of victimization of Aboriginal people remained 58% higher than that of non-Aboriginal people.

Similar to victimization among non-Aboriginal people, age was the primary risk factor for victimization against Aboriginal people. Those aged 15 to 24 years were the victims in nearly half (47%) of non-spousal violent incidents reported by Aboriginal people, whereas people in this age group represented 22% of the Aboriginal population aged 15 and over. As a rate, there were 425[E] violent incidents for every 1,000 Aboriginal people aged 15 to 24 years. The corresponding rate for non-Aboriginal people was 268 per 1,000.

Victimization of Aboriginal people associated with alcohol and drug use

Another factor found to be associated with a higher risk of violent victimization was drug use. Aboriginal people who reported using drugs at least once in the previous month had four times the risk of victimization compared to those who reported never using drugs. Also, Aboriginal people who reported that the presence of individuals using or selling drugs was a problem in their neighbourhood had a higher victimization rate than those who did not (277[E] versus 168) (Table 3).

The GSS also collects data from victims on various characteristics of the perpetrators, including the perpetrator's alcohol and drug use[7]. Aboriginal victims were more likely than non-Aboriginal victims to feel that the incident could have been related to the perpetrator's alcohol or drug use. More specifically, in nearly two-thirds (67%) of non-spousal violent incidents, the Aboriginal victim felt that the incident was related to the perpetrator's alcohol or drug use. This compares to 52% among non-Aboriginal people (Table 4).

Most violent victimizations do not involve a weapon

Generally speaking, most violent victimizations do not involve the use of a weapon, such as a firearm or a knife (Perreault and Brennan 2010). This is particularly true for victimizations against Aboriginal people. In 2009, 82% of violent incidents against Aboriginal people did not involve a weapon compared to 70% of incidents against non-Aboriginal people (Table 4).

Perpetrators of violent victimizations often known to victims

Both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal victims of non-spousal violence often know their perpetrator. In 2009, 68% of Aboriginal victims and 52% of non-Aboriginal victims were victimized by a relative, a friend, an acquaintance, a neighbour or another person known to them (Table 4). The higher proportion of Aboriginal people who knew their perpetrator may be related to the higher incidence of sexual assault among Aboriginal people as this type of offence was more likely to be committed by someone known to the victim than other forms of violence (Perreault and Brennan 2010). As well, a larger proportion of Aboriginal people than non-Aboriginal people (56% versus 31%) live outside census metropolitan areas[8] and may therefore be more likely to know a greater proportion of people in their community (Table 3).

As is the case with violent victimization in general (Perreault and Brennan 2010), most non-spousal violent victimizations were committed by young adult males. About three-quarters of perpetrators of violent victimizations against Aboriginal people were male, and more than half of perpetrators (57%) were between 25 and 44 years of age (Table 4).

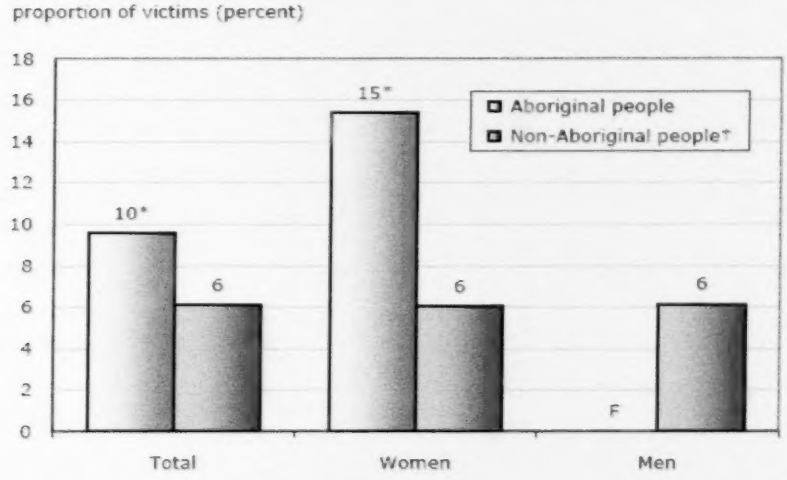
Spousal violence

This section focuses on violence committed by a current or former spouse or common-law partner. Although spousal violence may involve many types of violent crime or abuse, the GSS only collects information on incidents of spousal violence that involve sexual or physical assault. Also, because of a small sample size and to allow more details to be presented, the analysis focuses on spousal violence that occurred in the five years preceding the survey.

Aboriginal people were almost twice as likely as non-Aboriginal people to report being a victim of spousal violence

As is the case with non-spousal violence, Aboriginal people who had a spouse or common-law partner in the last five years were more likely than non-Aboriginal people to report being the victim of a sexual or physical assault by their spouse. Aboriginal people (10%) were almost twice as likely as non-Aboriginal people (6%) to report being a victim of spousal violence in the five years preceding the survey (Chart 2).

Chart 2
Self-reported spousal victimizations in the preceding 5 years, Canada's ten provinces, 2009



† reference category
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
F too unreliable to be published
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Aboriginal women, in particular, were at greater risk than non-Aboriginal women of being victims of spousal violence. About 15% of Aboriginal women who had a spouse or common-law partner in the past five years reported being a victim of spousal violence, more than twice the proportion among non-Aboriginal women (6%).

Not only were Aboriginal people more likely than non-Aboriginal people to be physically or sexually assaulted by a spouse or partner (current or former), they were also more likely to report having been victimized multiple times. More than half (59%) of Aboriginal victims of spousal violence reported being victimized more than once in the past five years and 50% reported being victimized more than three times. In comparison, 43% of non-Aboriginal victims reported being victimized more than once and 29% more than three times.

Aboriginal victims of spousal violence were more likely than other Aboriginal people to be victims of non-spousal violence. Aboriginal people who self-reported spousal violence were also about three times more likely than other Aboriginal people to have been the victim of a non-spousal violent crime.

Aboriginal victims of spousal violence were also more likely than non-Aboriginal victims to report suffering the most serious forms of spousal violence. More specifically, Aboriginal victims were nearly twice as likely to report being hit with an object, beaten, strangled, threatened or assaulted with a firearm or a knife, or forced to engage in an unwanted sexual act (60%[E] versus 33% for non-Aboriginal people). Proportionally, twice as many Aboriginal victims as non-Aboriginal victims said they were injured (57% versus 29%), and more than twice as many said they feared for their lives (48%[E] versus 18%) (Table 9).

Text Box 3
Theft of personal property

Of the eight types of offences measured by the General Social Survey, theft of personal property was the most widespread form of victimization reported by Aboriginal people. Theft of personal property was one of the few types of offences for which Aboriginal people had a victimization rate that was not statistically different from that of non-Aboriginal people (145 versus 107 per 1,000 people).

The personal property theft rate for Aboriginal people did not vary much with individual characteristics. Only drug use was associated with a higher rate of victimization for theft (314 versus 110 for Aboriginal people who never take drugs) (Table 5).

Some neighbourhood characteristics were associated with an increased risk of theft of personal property, for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. For example, the rate was higher in neighbourhoods where the proportion of home owners was below average and where the proportion of lone-parent families was above average. The rate also tended to be higher in neighbourhoods where respondents reported problems associated with graffiti and vandalism, people using or selling drugs and people who were drunk or rowdy in public places (Table 6).

Reporting victimizations to police

Aboriginal victims more likely to report spousal violence to police

The reporting rate for non-spousal violent incidents was similar for Aboriginal people (26%[E]) and non-Aboriginal people (29%) (Chart 3). In contrast, the reporting rate for situations involving spousal violence in the 5 years preceding the survey was higher among Aboriginal than non-Aboriginal people. Aboriginal victims were twice as likely as non-Aboriginal victims to report their victimization to police (29% compared to 15%). When including incidents where police became aware in some other way (e.g. friend relative or witness notified police), a total of 35% of spousal violence situations were brought to the attention of police.

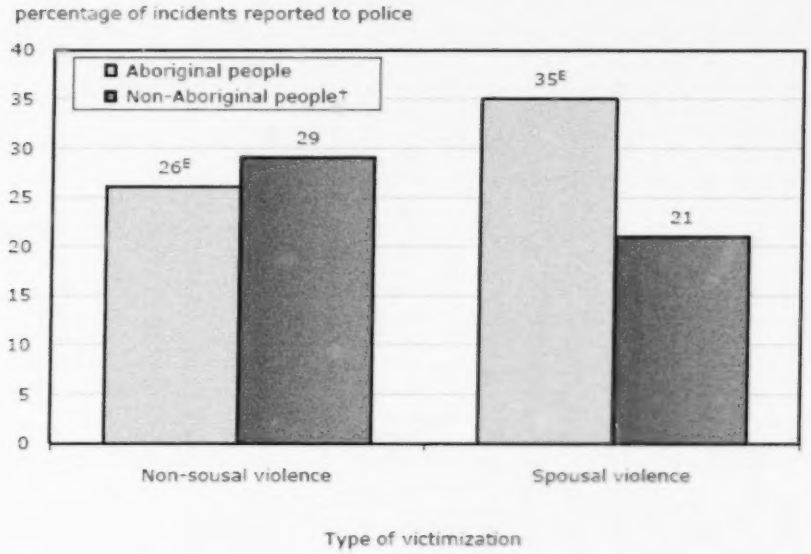
Since reporting rates are similar when there are injuries, the higher reporting rate by Aboriginal people may be partly due to the greater severity and consequences of spousal violence among Aboriginal victims. While 40%[E] of Aboriginal victims of spousal violence said they did not call the police because they felt the incident was not serious enough, this was the case among 71% of non-Aboriginal victims.

Other reasons often cited for not contacting the police, for both non-spousal and spousal violence incidents, were that the victim did not want to get involved with the police or that the matter was settled in another way (Table 7).

Aboriginal victims of spousal violence who contacted the police were generally satisfied with the action taken (73%). This result was similar for non-Aboriginal victims.

About one-third (33%[E]) of Aboriginal victims of spousal violence sought help from a formal service other than the police, such as a community center or a victim service (Table 8). According to a recent survey of victim services, 28% of services had programs specifically designed for Aboriginal people (Sauvé 2009).

Chart 3
Self-reported victimization incidents, by reporting to police, Canada's ten provinces, 2009



† reference category
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
[E] use with caution
Note: For spousal violence, the violent situation is considered as a whole as opposed to considering the incidents separately. If spousal violence has been reported at one time or another, then the violence is considered to be reported even if other incidents were not reported. Also, spousal violence is examined during the preceding five years, while non-spousal violent incidents are examined during the 12 months preceding the survey.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Most Aboriginal victims of violence seek support from friends or family members

Regardless of whether or not victims choose to inform the police or seek help from another formal service, most tell someone about the violent incident. There are differences between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, however, depending on the nature of the violent incident. More specifically, while both groups were about equally likely to confide in someone about non-spousal violence, Aboriginal people were more likely to tell someone, usually a family member, a friend or a neighbour, about incidents committed against them by their spouse. In 2009, 94% of Aboriginal people and 67% of non-Aboriginal people told someone about the spousal violence.

Impacts of violent victimization

Anger most common emotional response

In addition to physical injuries and fearing for their lives, victims may suffer other emotional or social consequences. As was observed for violent victimization in general (Perreault and Brennan 2010), one of the most common responses reported in 2009 was anger, experienced by just over one-third of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal victims. About one-third of victims also stated having been upset, confused or frustrated as a consequence of the victimization.

Some victims found it difficult or impossible to carry out their daily activities following the victimization. One-third of Aboriginal victims stated that they had to take time away from their daily activities for at least a day because of the victimization (Table 9).

Many victims of spousal violence living in lone-parent family

Although it is unknown if a change in the victim's family structure was a direct consequence of the abuse, many Aboriginal victims of violence by an ex-spouse (or common-law partner) were living in a lone-parent family at the time of the survey. Of those Aboriginal victims who had a child with their ex-spouse[9], 76% were single parents, usually single mothers. This compares to 56% of their non-Aboriginal counterparts. Overall, 16% of all Aboriginal people living in a lone-parent family experienced spousal violence in the last five years.

Moreover, when Aboriginal victims had a child with their ex-spouse, more than half (58%) of these children witnessed the abuse. This figure was similar for non-Aboriginal victims (65%).

Perceptions of personal safety

In addition to collecting information on Canadians' victimization experiences, the GSS asks a series of questions on respondents' perceptions of their personal safety and the Canadian justice system. The survey also asks respondents to assess the level of social disorder in their neighbourhood. To do so, respondents evaluate whether various situations, such as the presence of graffiti, garbage in the street, people using or selling drugs or prostitution are a problem in their neighbourhood (see Table 12 for a list of all social disorder situations that were evaluated).

Majority of Aboriginal people satisfied with their personal safety

Despite higher victimization rates and a greater likelihood of reporting social disorder in their neighbourhood, most Aboriginal people reported being satisfied with their personal safety from crime (89%).

Overall, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people had fairly similar perceptions about crime. For example, about 6 in 10 (62%) Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people believed that the number of crimes committed in their neighbourhood remained stable in the last five years. Similarly, almost the same proportion of Aboriginal (37%) and non-Aboriginal people (38%) said they felt safe or very safe walking alone after dark. On the other hand, Aboriginal people who did not feel safe doing so were more likely to say that they would walk alone more often after dark if they felt safer (55% versus 38%) (Table 10).

Although Aboriginal people were as satisfied with their personal safety as non-Aboriginal people, they were more likely to report having adopted some measures to protect themselves from crime. For example, 43% of Aboriginal people said they changed their routine, activities or avoided certain people or places and 16% said they obtained a dog to protect them from crime. The corresponding proportions for non-Aboriginal people were 36% and 9%, respectively. However, Aboriginal people (25%) were less likely than non-Aboriginal people (35%) to report having installed burglar alarms or motion detector lights (Table 11).

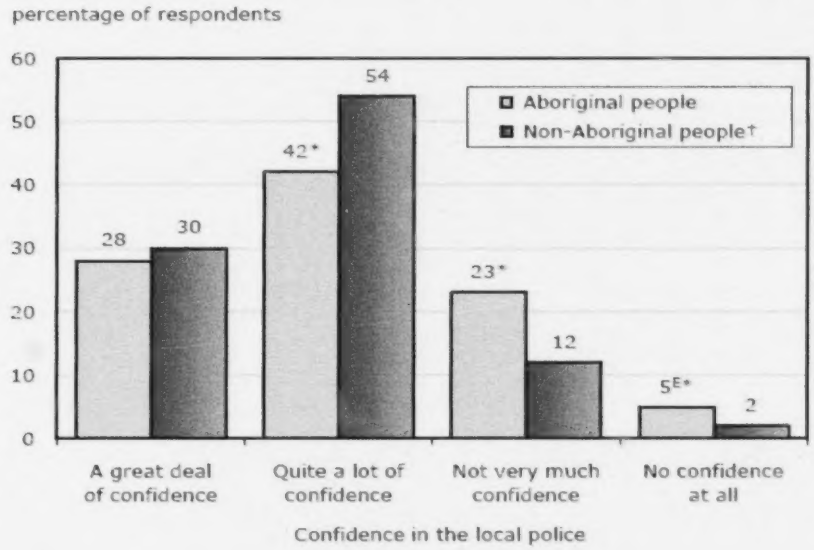
Most Aboriginal people have positive perceptions of their neighbourhood

In general, the majority of Aboriginal people did not perceive problems of social disorder in their neighbourhood. However, larger proportions of Aboriginal than non-Aboriginal people felt that the following signs of social disorder were a problem in their neighbourhood: people using or selling drugs (37% versus 27%); people who were drunk or rowdy (37% versus 25%); garbage lying around (39% versus 29%), or; vandalism (41% versus 32%) (Table 12).

Aboriginal people have a generally favourable perception of their local police service

In general, the majority of Aboriginal people believe that their local police service does a good or average job with regard to the aspects of police work covered by the survey (Table 13). However, Aboriginal people were less likely than non-Aboriginals to believe that their police service was doing a good job of treating people fairly (47% versus 59%) and of enforcing the law (51% versus 60%). Aboriginal people were also less likely than non-Aboriginals to have confidence in their local police service (70% versus 84%) (Chart 4).

Chart 4
Level of confidence in local police, by Aboriginal identity, Canada's ten provinces, 2009



† reference category
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
E use with caution
Note: Total may not add up to 100% due to rounding and "Don't know" and "Not stated" categories included in the total.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Aboriginal people tended to have less favourable opinions of the criminal courts than of their local police, although their perceptions were generally similar to those of non-Aboriginal people. On the other hand, slightly higher percentages of Aboriginal than non-Aboriginal people felt that the prison system was doing a poor job of supervising prisoners and helping them become law-abiding citizens (Table 13).

Contact with the justice system is a factor that can influence one's perceptions of that system. The 2009 GSS shows that Aboriginal people were more likely to have had contact with the justice system. Specifically, 42% of Aboriginal people and 37% of non-Aboriginal people had contact with the police in the 12 months preceding the survey. Aboriginal people were more likely than non-Aboriginal people to have had contact with the police in the context of a public information session (13% compared to 8%) and for being arrested (3%[E] compared to 1%). Moreover, about one-third of Aboriginal people had contact with the criminal court system at some point in their lives. This compares to 21% of non-Aboriginal people.

Summary

In 2009, about 1 in 10 Aboriginal people reported having been the victim of a non-spousal violent crime in the 12 months preceding the survey, more than double the proportion of non-Aboriginal people. For both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal victims, several factors were found to be associated with higher victimization rates, including being young, single and using drugs. When comparing Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people with similar socio-demographic characteristics, the risk of victimization remained 58% higher for Aboriginal people than non-Aboriginal people.

Moreover, Aboriginal people were almost twice as likely as non-Aboriginal people to report having been the victim of spousal violence in the 5 years preceding the survey. Aboriginal victims of spousal violence were also more likely than non-Aboriginal victims to report multiple incidents, more severe forms of violence and injuries. Aboriginal victims of spousal violence were also at greater risk of being the victim of a non-spousal violent crime.

As it is the case with victimization in general, fewer than 1 in 3 incidents was reported to police. However, Aboriginal victims of spousal violence were more likely than their non-Aboriginal counterparts to report the violence to police.

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Methodology for the multivariate analysis

Several socio-demographic factors associated with an increased risk of violent victimization are more common in the Aboriginal population than the non-Aboriginal population. Also, these factors seldom exist in isolation. For example, being young is associated with participating in evening activities and single marital status, both of which are factors related to the risk of victimization. In order to evaluate the contribution of each factor to the risk of victimization independently, the logistic regression technique was used. According to this technique, the effect of each factor is measured while holding the other factors constant and it is expressed in terms of the odds ratio.

The odds ratio indicates the contribution to the risk of victimization in relation to the reference group. For example, in Model 1, age is the main risk factor: those aged 15 to 24 years are 6.2 times more likely than those aged 55 and over to be victimized. Similarly, the risk victimization among separated/divorced or single persons is, respectively, 1.8 and 1.5 times higher than the risk for married persons.

Model 1
Logistic regression: Risk of violent victimization, by selected characteristics, Canada's ten provinces, 2009

Characteristics[1]	Odds ratio
Aboriginal Identity	
Non-Aboriginal	reference
Aboriginal	1.58*
Age	
Aged 55 and over	reference
15 to 24	6.2***
25 to 34	4.49***
35 to 44	3.59***
45 to 54	2.83***
Marital Status	
Married/common-law	reference
Single	1.53***
Other marital status[2]	1.76***
Immigrant status	
Non-immigrant	reference
Immigrant	0.58***
Activity limitation	
No limitation	reference
Limited in activities	1.56***
Number of activities at night (each month)	
Less than 30	reference
30 or more	1.44***
Use of drugs	
Never uses drugs	reference
Used drugs at least once in past month, but not every day	2.31***
Uses drugs daily	3.96***
Probability that a neighbour would call the police if they witnessed what seemed like criminal behaviour	
Probable	reference
Not so probable	1.74***
People using or dealing drugs in the neighbourhood?	
No	reference
Yes	1.91***

* Significant at $p < 0.05$
*** Significant at $p < 0.001$
1. Non-significant variables were excluded from the model.
2. Other marital status includes, separated, divorced and widowed.
Note: Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date. Based on non-spousal violent incidents that occurred during the 12 months preceding the survey.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

A second logistical regression was performed to determine whether the same risk factors were involved for Aboriginal people. It showed that age, drug use, activity limitations and people using or selling drugs in the neighbourhood were the major risk factors.

Model 2
Logistic regression: Risk of violent victimization of Aboriginal people, by selected characteristics, Canada's ten provinces, 2009

Independent variables	Odds ratio
Age	
Aged 45 and over	reference
15 to 24	4.8***
25 to 34	1.5
35 to 44	2.9***
Activity limitation	
No limitation	reference
Limited in activities	1.9*
Use of drugs	
Don't uses drugs daily	reference
Use drugs daily	2.7***
People using or dealing drugs in the neighbourhood?	
No	reference
Yes	1.7*

* Significant at $p < 0.05$
*** Significant at $p < 0.001$
Note: Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date. Based on non-spousal violent incidents that occurred during the 12 months preceding the survey.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Methodology for the General Social Survey on Victimization

In 2009, Statistics Canada conducted the victimization cycle of the General Social Survey for the fifth time. Previous cycles were conducted in 1988, 1993, 1999 and 2004. The objectives of the survey are to provide estimates of Canadians' personal experiences of eight offence types, examine risk factors associated with victimization, examine reporting rates to police, measure the nature and extent of spousal violence, measure fear of crime and examine public perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system.

Sampling

The target population included all persons 15 years and older in the 10 Canadian provinces, excluding full-time residents of institutions. The survey was also conducted in the three Canadian territories using a different sampling design and its results will be available in a separate report to be released in 2011. Households were selected by a telephone sampling method called Random Digit Dialling (RDD). Households without telephones or with only cellular phone service were excluded. These two groups combined represented approximately 9% of the target population (Residential Telephone Service Survey, (RTSS), December 2008). The coverage, therefore, for 2009 was 91%.

Once a household was contacted, an individual 15 years or older was randomly selected to respond to the survey. The sample in 2009 was approximately 19,500 households, a smaller sample than in 2004 (24,000).

Data collection

Data collection took place from February to November 2009 inclusively. The sample was evenly distributed over the 10 months to represent seasonal variation in the information. A standard questionnaire was administered by telephone using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). A typical interview lasted 45 minutes. Prior to collection, all GSS questions went through qualitative and pilot testing.

Response rates

Of the 31,510 households that were selected for the GSS Cycle 23 sample, 19,422 usable responses were obtained. This represents a response rate of 61.6%. Types of non-response included respondents who refused to participate, could not be reached, or could not speak English or French. Respondents in the sample were weighted so that their responses represent the non-institutionalized Canadian population aged 15 years or over, in the ten provinces. Each person who responded to the 2009 GSS represented roughly 1,400 people in the Canadian population aged 15 years and over.

Data limitations

As with any household survey, there are some data limitations. The results are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sampling error. Somewhat different results might have been obtained if the entire population had been surveyed. This *Juristat* uses the coefficient of variation (CV) as a measure of the sampling error. Any estimate that has a high CV (over 33.3%) has not been published because the estimate is too unreliable. In these cases, the symbol 'F' is used in place of an estimate in the figures and data tables. An estimate that has a CV between 16.6 and 33.3 should be used with caution and the symbol 'E' is referenced with the estimate. Where descriptive statistics and cross-tabular analysis were used, statistically significant differences were determined using 95% confidence intervals.

Using the 2009 GSS sample design and sample size, an estimate of a given proportion of the total population, expressed as a percentage is expected to be within 0.95 percentage points of the true proportion 19 times out of 20.

Notes

[E] use with caution

1. Information on victimization in the territories was collected using a different methodology and results will be published at a later date.

2. The question used to identify the Aboriginal population in the 2009 GSS on Victimization was changed from previous cycles to coincide with the question used in the 2006 Census. As such, the 2009 results for the Aboriginal population cannot be directly compared to those from previous victimization cycles. Households in the ten provinces were selected for the GSS survey by a sampling method called Random Digit Dialing (RDD) and respondents were interviewed by telephone. It should be noted that the proportion of households with a landline telephone may be relatively low on some Indian reserves and settlements (Brzozowski and Mihorean, 2002).

3. This report was funded by the Policy Centre for Victim Issues (PCVI) of the Department of Justice Canada.

4. Figures for robbery were too small to be published.

5. For further information, see Models 1 and 2 in the section "Methodology for the multivariate analysis" at the end of this report.

6. For further information, see Model 1 in the section "Methodology for the multivariate analysis" at the end of this report.

7. In 2009, the data on perpetrators and the presence of a weapon were based on 69% of violent incidents.

8. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around an urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data.

9. 63% of Aboriginal victims of violence by an ex-spouse shared at least one child with that ex-spouse.

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Self-reported incidents of violent victimization and theft of personal property, by Aboriginal identity, Canada's ten provinces, 2009

	Aboriginal people		Non-Aboriginal people	
Type of victimization	**number ('000)**	**rate[1]**	**number ('000)**	**rate[1] †**
Total violent victimization (including spousal violence)	**204**	**232***	**3,039**	**114**
Sexual assault	63[E]	71[E]*	612	23
Physical assault	123[E]	141[E]*	2,081	78
Robbery[2]	F	F	347	13
Total violent victimization (excluding spousal violence)	**174**	**198***	**2,502**	**94**
Sexual assault	62[E]	70[E]*	601	23
Physical assault	94[E]	107[E]*	1,555	58
Robbery	F	F	347	13
Theft of personal property	**127**	**145**	**2,838**	**107**

† reference category
[E] use with caution
F too unreliable to be published
* Significantly different from reference category ($p<0.05$)
1. Rates are calculated per 1,000 population age 15 years and older. Populations based upon estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
2. The General Social Survey does not capture robberies perpetrated by spouses. As such, figures for total robbery match those for non-spousal robbery.
Note: Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut. Includes incidents that occurred during the 12 months preceding the survey.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Table 2
Self-reported incidents of violent victimization, by selected characteristics and aboriginal identity, Canada's ten provinces, 2009

	Total violent victimization (including spousal violence)				Total violent victimization (excluding spousal violence)			
	Aboriginal people		Non-Aboriginal people		Aboriginal people		Non-Aboriginal people	
Type of characteristic	number (000's)	rate[1]	number (000's)	rate[1]	number (000's)	rate[1]	number (000's)	rate[1]
Sex								
Female†	138[E]	279[E] **	1,414	106	110[E]	223[E] **	1,122	84
Male	66[E]	171[E]	1,625	123	63[E]	165[E]	1,380	105*
Age group								
15 to 24†	86[E]	448[E]	1,180	276	81[E]	425[E]	1,143	268
25 to 44	86[E]	248[E]	1,208	134*	70[E]	201[E] **	883	98*
45 and over	32[E]	94[E] *	651	49*	23[E]	66[E] *	476	36*
Marital status								
Married or common law†	84[E]	171[E] **	1,216	73	62[E]	126[E] **	848	51
Single, separated or divorced	117[E]	334[E] *	1,800	211*	109	312[E] *	1,630	191*
Widowed	F	F	23[E]	18[E] *	F	F	23	18[E] *
Household income								
Less than $40,000†	76[E]	277[E] **	499	113	65[E]	236[E] **	359	81
$40,000 and over	93[E]	216[E]	1,990	118	75[E]	175[E]	1,645	98
Activity limitation								
Limited in activities†	106[E]	300[E] **	1,124	137	89[E]	253[E] **	854	104
No limitation	97[E]	186[E]	1,915	105*	84[E]	161[E]	1,648	90
Main activity of respondent								
Employed†	101[E]	218[E]	1,882	122	88[E]	191[E] **	1,470	96
Other[2]	103[E]	247[E] **	1,157	104	85[E]	206[E] **	1,032	93
Number of activities at night (each month)								
Less than 30†	95[E]	181[E] **	1,402	78	83[E]	159[E] **	1,066	59
30 or more	108[E]	326[E]	1,609	198*	89	271[E]	1,415	174*
5 or more alcoholic drinks in one sitting (past month)								
None†	97[E]	167[E] **	1,705	88	81[E]	140[E] **	1,348	69
At least one	105[E]	364[E] ***	1,315	186*	91[E]	315[E] ***	1,140	162*
Use of drugs								
Never use drugs†	131[E]	182[E] **	1,986	86	109[E]	151[E] **	1,603	69
Use drugs[3]	72[E]	467[E] *	1,030	315*	64[E]	416[E] *	886	271*
Place of residence								
Census metropolitan area†	57[E]	149[E]	2,210	120	49[E]	130[E]	1,824	99
Non-census metropolitan area	147[E]	296[E] ***	830	102	124[E]	250[E] ***	678	83

† reference category
[E] use with caution
F too unreliable to be published
* Significantly different from reference category ($p<0.05$)
** Significantly different from non-Aboriginal people category only ($p<0.05$)
*** Significantly different from reference category and non-Aboriginal people category ($p<0.05$)
1. Rates are calculated per 1,000 population age 15 years and older. Populations based upon estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
2. Includes unemployed, going to school, caring for children, household work, retired, maternity/paternity leave, long-term illness, volunteering or other.
3. Includes respondents who reported having used drugs either on a regular or occasional basis.
Note: Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut. Includes incidents that occurred during the 12 months preceding the survey.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Table 3
Self-reported incidents of violent victimization, by selected neighbourhood characteristics and Aboriginal identity, Canada's ten provinces, 2009

Type of neighbourhood characteristic	Total violent victimization (including spousal violence)		Total violent victimization (excluding spousal violence)	
	Aboriginal people	Non-Aboriginal people	Aboriginal people	Non-Aboriginal people
	rate[1]			
Place of residence[2]				
Census metropolitan area†	149[E]	120	130[E]	99
Non-census metropolitan area	296[E] ***	102	250[E] ***	83
Proportion of persons who lived at the same address 5 years earlier[2]				
Below average†	178[E]	129	141[E]	107
Above average	277[E] **	99*	242[E] **	81*
Proportion of persons who own their home[2]				
Below average†	316[E] **	119	263[E] **	99
Above average	171[E] *	110	149[E]	90
Proportion of persons in families with incomes below low income cut-off (LICO)[2, 3]				
Below average†	207[E] **	104	184[E] **	86
Above average	198[E]	129*	161[E]	107*
Median family income adjusted for family size[2]				
Below average†	267[E]	113	231[E] **	93
Above average	164[E] *	113	127[E]	94
Proportion of persons aged 65 and over[2]				
Below average†	270[E] **	124	227[E] **	103
Above average	200[E]	99*	171[E]	82*
Proportion of lone parent families[2]				
Below average†	189[E]	103	170[E]	84
Above average	287[E] **	127*	235[E] **	106*
Do neighbours help each other in your neighbourhood?[4]				
Yes†	213[E] **	100	188[E] **	82
No	323[E]	218*	235[E]	181*
Probability that a neighbour would call the police if they witnessed what seemed like criminal behaviour[4]				
Probable†	225*†	104	191[E] **	85
Not so probable	F	256*	261[E]	218*
Are there noisy neighbours or loud parties in your neighbourhood?[4]				
Yes†	349[E] **	162	278[E] **	137
No	177[E] ***	99*	160[E] **	80*

Table 3 (continued)
Self-reported incidents of violent victimization, by selected neighbourhood characteristics and Aboriginal identity, Canada's ten provinces, 2009

Type of neighbourhood characteristic	Total violent victimization (including spousal violence)		Total violent victimization (excluding spousal violence)	
	Aboriginal people	Non-Aboriginal people	Aboriginal people	Non-Aboriginal people
	rate[1]			
Is there garbage or litter lying around your neighbourhood?[4]				
Yes†	252[E]	174	197[E]	148
No	220[E] **	91*	199[E] **	73*
Is there vandalism, graffiti and/or other deliberate damage to property or vehicles in your neighbourhood?[4]				
Yes†	313[E]	188	254[E]	163
No	175[E] **	80*	158[E] **	62*
Are there people using or dealing drugs in your neighbourhood?[4]				
Yes†	351[E] **	210	277[E]	186
No	180[E] ***	80*	168[E] **	61*
Are people drunk or rowdy in public places in your neighbourhood?[4]				
Yes†	354**	209	285	183
No	168***	83*	153***	65*

† reference category
[E] use with caution
F too unreliable to be published
* Significantly different from reference category ($p<0.05$)
** Significantly different from non-Aboriginal people category only ($p<0.05$)
*** Significantly different from reference category and non-Aboriginal people category ($p<0.05$)
1. Rates are calculated per 1,000 population age 15 years and older. Populations based upon estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
2. Data are based upon information from the 2006 Census. The data for the respondents residing in census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations correspond to census tracts. For the respondents residing outside of these areas, the data correspond to the census subdivisions (municipalities). Averages were calculated based upon total Canada's ten provinces population.
3. Low income cut-offs are estimated independently for economic families and persons not in economic families based upon family expenditure and income after tax. Consequently the low income after-tax cut-offs are set at after-tax income levels, differentiated by size of family and area of residence, where families spend 20 percentage points more of their after-tax income than the average family on food, shelter and clothing.
4. Data are based upon information reported by respondents to the General Social Survey.
Note: Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut. Includes incidents that occurred during the 12 months preceding the survey.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009 and Census of Population, 2006.

Table 4
Self-reported incidents of non-spousal violence, by selected characteristics and Aboriginal identity, Canada's ten provinces, 2009

Type of characteristic	Aboriginal people	Non-Aboriginal people†
	percent	
Number of offenders		
One	82	73
Two	F	9
Three or more	F	12
Don't know/not stated	F	5E
Sex of the offender[1]		
Male	76	89
Female	F	11
Don't know/not stated	F	F
Age of the offender[1]		
Less than 25	F	39
25 to 44	57	41
45 and over	F	16
Don't know/not stated	F	F
Relationship of offender to the victim[2]		
Person known to the victim	68*	52
Stranger	32E *	47
Location of the incident		
Private residence of the victim or other private residence	39	32
Commercial or institutional establishment	41E	39
Street or other public place	F	26
Presence of a weapon		
Yes	F	27
No	82*	70
Don't know/not stated	F	3E
Did the incident cause injuries		
Yes	F	18
No	82	82
Did the offender use drugs or alcohol		
Yes	67*	52
No	F	38
Don't know/not stated	F	10

† reference category
E use with caution
F too unreliable to be published
* Significantly different from reference category ($p<0.05$)
1. Excludes incidents involving multiple offenders.
2. Where multiple offenders are involved in one incident, the person with the closest relationship to the victim is counted.
Notes: Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding. Includes incidents that occurred during the 12 months preceding the survey. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut. Excludes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Table 5
Self-reported incidents of theft of personal property, by selected characteristics and Aboriginal identity, Canada's ten provinces, 2009

	Aboriginal people		Non-Aboriginal people	
Type of characteristic	**number (000's)**	**rate[1]**	**number (000's)**	**rate[1]**
Sex				
Female†	66[E]	134[E]	1,538	115
Male	61[E]	159[E]	1,300	99*
Age				
15 to 24†	F	F	863	201
25 to 44	68[E]	195[E]	1,150	128*
45 and over	F	F	825	62*
Marital status				
Married or common law†	67[E]	135[E]	1,480	89
Single, separated or divorced	60[E]	171[E]	1,332	156*
Widowed	F	F	26[E]	19[E]*
Household income				
Less than $40,000†	43[E]	155[E]	372	84
$40,000 and over	53[E]	124[E]	1,958	116*
Activity limitation				
Limited in activities†	54[E]	152[E]	861	105
No limitation	74[E]	141[E]	1,976	108
Main activity of respondent				
Employed†	83[E]	180[E]**	1,687	110
Other[2]	44[E]	106[E]	1139	102
Number of activities at night (each month)				
Less than 30†	67[E]	128[E]	1,541	86
30 or more	60[E]	182[E]	1,242	153*
5 or more alcoholic drinks in one sitting (past month)				
None†	77[E]	133[E]	1,716	88
At least one	50[E]	174[E]	1,113	158*
Use of drugs				
Never use drugs†	79[E]	110[E]	2,256	97
Use drugs[3]	48[E]	314[E]*	578	177*
Place of residence				
Census metropolitan area†	63[E]	164[E]	2,156	117
Non-census metropolitan area	65[E]	131[E]	682	84*

† reference category
[E] use with caution
F too unreliable to be published
* Significantly different from reference category ($p<0.05$)
** Significantly different from non-Aboriginal people category only ($p<0.05$)
1. Rates are calculated per 1,000 population age 15 years and older. Populations based upon estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
2. Includes unemployed, going to school, caring for children, household work, retired, maternity/paternity leave, long-term illness, volunteering or other.
3. Includes respondents who reported having used drugs either on a regular or occasional basis.
Note: Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut. Includes incidents that occurred during the 12 months preceding the survey.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Table 6
Self-reported incidents of theft of personal property, by selected neighbourhood characteristics and Aboriginal identity, Canada's ten provinces, 2009

Type of neighbourhood characteristic	Aboriginal people	Non-Aboriginal people
	rate[1]	
Place of residence[2]		
Census metropolitan area†	164[E]	117
Non-census metropolitan area	131[E]	84*
Proportion of persons who lived at the same address 5 years earlier[2]		
Below average†	171[E]	123
Above average	120[E]	95
Proportion of persons who own their home[2]		
Below average†	213[E] **	124
Above average	82[E] *	97*
Proportion of persons in families with incomes below low income cut-off (LICO)[2, 3]		
Below average†	101[E]	98
Above average	194[E]	122
Median family income adjusted for family size[2]		
Below average†	157[E] **	100
Above average	107[E]	116*
Proportion of persons aged 65 and over[2]		
Below average†	166[E]	109
Above average	119[E]	106*
Proportion of lone parent families[2]		
Below average†	F	99
Above average	203[E] ***	118*
Do neighbours help each other in your neighbourhood?[4]		
Yes†	144	98
No	169[E]	174*
Probability that a neighbour would call the police if they witnessed what seemed like criminal behaviour[4]		
Probable†	137[E]	104
Not so probable	F	156*
Are there noisy neighbours or loud parties in your neighbourhood?[4]		
Yes†	148[E]	136
No	145[E]	97*
Is there garbage or litter lying around your neighbourhood?[4]		
Yes†	197[E]	162
No	113[E]	85*
Is there vandalism, graffiti and/or other deliberate damage to property or vehicles in your neighbourhood?[4]		
Yes†	222[E]	167
No	92[E] *	78*

Table 6 (continued)
Self-reported incidents of theft of personal property, by selected neighbourhood characteristics and Aboriginal identity, Canada's ten provinces, 2009

	Aboriginal people	Non-Aboriginal people
Type of neighbourhood characteristic	**rate[1]**	
Are there people using or dealing drugs in your neighbourhood?[4]		
Yes†	223[E]	179
No	111[E]*	81*
Are people drunk or rowdy in public places in your neighbourhood?[4]		
Yes†	200	171
No	118	87*

† reference category
[E] use with caution
F too unreliable to be published
* Significantly different from reference category ($p<0.05$)
** Significantly different from non-Aboriginal people category only ($p<0.05$)
*** Significantly different from reference category and non-Aboriginal people category ($p<0.05$)
1. Rates are calculated per 1,000 population age 15 years and older. Populations based upon estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
2. Data are based upon information from the 2006 Census. The data for the respondents residing in census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations correspond to census tracts. For the respondents residing outside of these areas, the data correspond to the census subdivisions (municipalities). Averages were calculated based upon total Canada's ten provinces population.
3. Low income cut-offs are estimated independently for economic families and persons not in economic families based upon family expenditure and income after tax. Consequently the low income after-tax cut-offs are set at after-tax income levels, differentiated by size of family and area of residence, where families spend 20 percentage points more of their after-tax income than the average family on food, shelter and clothing.
4. Data are based upon information reported by respondents to the General Social Survey.
Note: Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut. Includes incidents that occurred during the 12 months preceding the survey.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009 and Census of Population, 2006.

Table 7
Self-reported violent victimizations, by reasons for reporting to police and Aboriginal identity, Canada's ten provinces, 2009

	Non-spousal violence[1]		Spousal violence[2]	
	Aboriginal people	Non-Aboriginal people†	Aboriginal people	Non-Aboriginal people†
Reason for reporting to police	percent			
Main reason respondent chose not to contact the police				
Because it was dealt with another way	60	60	70	81
Because of fear of revenge by the offender	F	13	...	...
Fear of spouse or partner	...	...	F	10
Because the police couldn't do anything about it	27[E]*	43	F	25
Because the police wouldn't help	F	17	F	14
Because you didn't want to get involved with police	71*	52	62	48
Because it was not important enough?	71	60	40[E]*	71
Because the incident was a personal matter that didn't concern the police?	50[E]	50	74	83
Because you have little or no confidence in the criminal justice system?	F	17	37[E]*	11
Because the police would be biased	F	15	...	...
Because of fear of publicity/news coverage?	F	11[E]	F	11
Because you didn't want your spouse or partner arrested or jailed?	...	...	49[E]	40
Because you didn't want anyone to find out about it?	...	...	54[E]	34
Main reason respondent chose to contact the police				
To stop the violence or receive protection	F	74	95	89
To arrest and punish the offender	F	72	F	31
To file a report to claim compensation or insurance	F	22[E]	...	...
Because you felt it was your duty to notify police	F	83	67[E]	48
On the recommendation of someone else	F	20	F	28

† reference category
* Significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
[E] use with caution
F too unreliable to be published
1. Includes incidents that occurred during the 12 months preceding the survey.
2. Includes spousal violence that occurred in the 5 years preceding the survey. Percentages are based on the population who had a spouse or common-law partner at some point in the 5 years preceding the survey. For spousal violence, the violent situation is considered as a whole as opposed to considering the incidents separately.
Note: Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Table 8
Self-reported violent victimization where the victim talked about the incident to someone other than the police, by Aboriginal identity, Canada's ten provinces, 2009

Person or organisation the victim spoke to	Non-spousal violence[1]		Spousal violence[2]	
	Aboriginal people	Non-Aboriginal people†	Aboriginal people	Non-Aboriginal people†
	percent			
Communicated with a formal social organization[3]	F	10	33[E]	28
Talked about the incident to someone other than the police (total)	91	90	**94***	**67**
Told a family member	63	67	82*	52
Told a friend or a neighbour	77	74	68*	47
Told a co-worker	37[E]	49	29[E]	22
Told a doctor or a nurse	F	11	F	9
Told a lawyer	F	4[E]	19[E]	16
Told a priest, rabbi, imam, elder or another spiritual advisor	F	5[E]	F	10

† reference category
* Significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
[E] use with caution
F too unreliable to be published
1. Includes incidents that occurred during the 12 months preceding the survey.
2. Includes spousal violence that occurred in the 5 years preceding the survey. Percentages are based on the population who had a spouse or common-law partner at some point in the 5 years preceding the survey. For spousal violence, the violent situation is considered as a whole as opposed to considering the incidents separately.
3. Includes crisis centre or crisis line, community centre, CLSC, family centre , psychologist, shelter or transition house, women's centre, men's centre or men's support group, senior's centre, victim service or victim witness assistance program, police-based or court-based victim service.
Note: Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Table 9
Self-reported violent victimization, by consequences for the victim and by Aboriginal identity, Canada's ten provinces, 2009

	Non-spousal violence[1]		Spousal violence[2]		Theft of personal property	
	Aboriginal people	Non-Aboriginal people†	Aboriginal people	Non-Aboriginal people†	Aboriginal people	Non-Aboriginal people†
Type of consequence	percent					
Physical consequences						
Injuries	F	18	57*	29	...	...
Financial and social consequences						
Had to take time off from their regular activities	35E	27	32E	17	F	19
Financial consequences (stolen or damaged property)	F	17	...	...	80	87
Psychological and emotional consequences						
Feared for their life	...	...	48E*	18	...	...
Angry	34E	33	35E	26	34E	34
Upset, confused or frustrated	F	21	33E	32	F	21
Not much affected	F	19	F	20	F	20
Annoyed	F	9	F	6E*	F	17

† reference category
* Significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
F too unreliable to be published
1. Includes incidents that occurred in the 12 months preceding the survey.
2. Includes spousal violence that occurred in the 5 years preceding the survey. Percentages are based on the population who had a spouse or common-law partner at some point in the 5 years preceding the survey. For spousal violence, the violent situation is considered as a whole as opposed to considering the incidents separately.
Note: Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Table 10
Canadians' feelings of safety and perceptions of crime in the neighbourhood, by Aboriginal identity, Canada's ten provinces, 2009

Type of feeling or perception	Aboriginal people	Non-Aboriginal people†
	percent	
Compared to other regions, do you think that the number of crimes in your neighbourhood is...		
...higher?	11	8
...about the same?	29	29
...lower?	56	61
Do you think that crime in your neighbourhood has...		
...increased?	27	26
...decreased?	5[E]	6
...remained the same?	62	62
How safe do you feel from crime when you walk alone in your neighbourhood after dark?		
Very safe	37	38
Reasonably safe	36*	42
Somewhat unsafe	13*	10
Very unsafe	7[E]*	3
Does not walk alone	7	7
When alone in your home in the evening or at night, do you feel...		
...very worried?	4[E]*	1
...somewhat worried?	19*	15
...not at all worried?	77*	83
Are you generally satistifed with your personal security from crime incidents?		
Very satisfied	44	48
Somewhat satisfied	45	45
Somewhat dissatisfied	7[E]	5
Very dissatisfied	3[E]*	1
If you felt safer from crime, would you walk alone in your neighbourhood after dark more often?		
Yes	55*	38
No	43*	60

† reference category
* Significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
[E] use with caution
Note: Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut. Responses "Don't know and Not stated" are included in the total. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding and "Don't know" and "not stated" answers.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Table 11
Use of crime prevention measures, by Aboriginal identity, Canada's ten provinces, 2009

Type of measure taken	Aboriginal people	Non-Aboriginal people†
	percent	
Do you do any of the following things to make yourself or your personal belongings safer from crime?		
Changed your routine, activities, or avoided certain people or places?	43*	36
Installed new locks or security bars?	28	30
Installed burglar alarms or motion detector lights?	25*	35
Taken a self-defence course?	13	12
Obtained a dog?	16*	9
Obtained a gun?	1E	1
Changed residence or moved?	9E*	4
Carry something to defend yourself or to alert other people?	18	14
When alone and returning to a parked car, check the back seat for intruders before getting into the car?	40	40
Plan your route with safety in mind?	51*	44
Stay at home at night because you are afraid to go out alone?	16*	10
Lock windows and doors at home?	83	85
Rather than walk, use your car, taxi or public transportation for your personal safety?	40*	32

† reference category
* Significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
E use with caution
Note: Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Table 12
Canadians' perceptions of social disorder in the neighbourhood, by Aboriginal identity, Canada's ten provinces, 2009

	Aboriginal people		Non-Aboriginal people†	
	A problem	Not a problem	A problem	Not a problem
Type of social disorder	percent			
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	33*	67*	25	75
People hanging around on the streets	32*	68*	23	76
People sleeping on the streets or in other public places	11	89	8	92
Garbage or litter lying around	39*	61*	29	71
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles	41*	59*	32	67
People being attacked or harassed because of their skin colour, ethnic origin or religion?	14	83*	11	87
People using or dealing drugs	37*	55*	27	69
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	37*	60*	25	74
Prostitution	9	88	8	90

† reference category
* Significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
Note: Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut. Responses "Don't know" and Not stated" are included in the total. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding and "Don't know" and "not stated" answers.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Table 13
Perceptions of the criminal justice system, by Aboriginal identity, Canada's ten provinces, 2009

	Aboriginal people				Non-Aboriginal people†			
Type of perception	Good	Average	Bad	Don't know	Good	Average	Bad	Don't know
	percent							
Do you think your local police force does a good job...								
...of enforcing the laws?	51*	37*	10*	2E	60	32	5	3
...of promptly responding to calls?	48	24	15*	13*	53	24	6	17
...of being approachable and easy to talk to?	62	24	8*	5E*	65	21	5	9
...of supplying information to the public on ways to reduce crime?	45*	29	18*	8E	50	32	10	9
...of ensuring the safety of the citizens in your area?	54*	31	12*	3E	63	29	5	4
...of treating people fairly?	47*	34*	13*	6E	59	27	6	9
Do you think the criminal courts do a good job...								
...of providing justice quickly?	20	38	34	8	18	41	32	9
...of helping the victim?	24	36	29	11	22	40	26	13
...of determining whether the accused or the person charged is guilty or not?	30	41	19*	10	30	44	15	11
...of ensuring a fair trial for the accused?	42*	36	12*	10	47	36	7	10
Do you think the prison system does a good job...								
...of supervising and controlling prisoners while in prison?	35	31	17*	17	36	33	10	21
...of helping prisoners become law-abiding citizens?	23	33	29*	14*	21	38	20	21
Do you think the prison parole system does a good job...								
...of releasing offenders who are not likely to commit another crime?	20	40	29	11	20	42	25	14
...of supervising offenders on parole?	21	35	31*	12*	18	38	25	18

† reference category
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
E use with caution
Note: Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.